Quarters Fires

Facts

- More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 25,000 are injured.
- An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home.
- There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire.
- It's not a question of luck - it's a matter of planning ahead.
- There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths - more than 50% of adult fire fatalities were under the influence.

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Kitchen Fire Safety

- **Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S.**
  - unsupervised food on stove or in oven or microwave
  - grease spills
  - dish towel too close to the burner
  - toaster or toaster oven flare-up
  - coffee pot accidentally left on

- **Always supervise your child while cooking and practice safe cooking habits:**
  - turn pot handles in so they aren't accidentally

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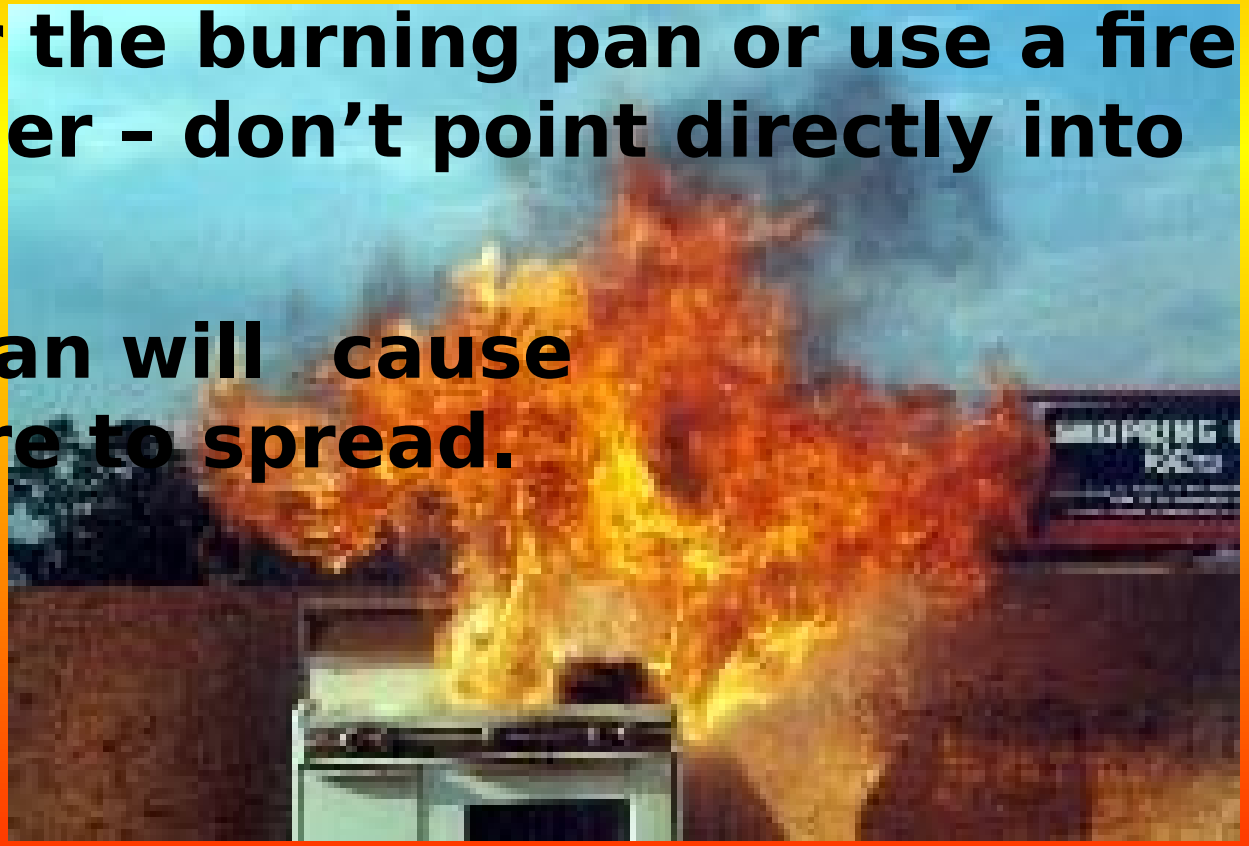
Grease Fires

- Never pour water on grease fires.
- Put a lid over the burning pan or use a fire extinguisher – don't point directly into the pan.
- Moving the pan will cause the fire to spread.
- Don't panic!



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Bedroom Fire Safety

- Bedrooms are a common area of fire origin.
- Nearly 1,000 lives are lost to fires that start in bedrooms.
- Most of these fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices, such as overloading extension cords or using portable space heaters too close to combustibles.
- Many other bedroom fires are caused by children who play with matches and lighters, careless smoking among adults, and arson

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Prevent Electrical Fires

- Never overload transformers, circuits, or extension cords.
- Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- Never use more than one power strip per outlet.
- Immediately shut off and unplug appliances that sputter, spark, or emit an unusual smell.
- Have suspicious appliances professionally repaired or replaced.

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Use Appliances Wisely

- When using appliances follow the manufacturer's safety precautions.
- Check appliances for warning signs - shut them off if in doubt.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home.

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Alternate Heaters

- Portable heaters need their space - keep anything combustible at least three feet away.
- Keep fire in the fireplace, use fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually - the creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread.
- Ensure heaters are approved for use.

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Caring for Children

- Children under five are naturally curious about fire.
- Many play with matches and lighters.
- Tragically, children set over 20,000 house fires every year.
- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

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Be aware of Holiday Dangers

- Around the holidays, there are even more hidden dangers to think about.
- If you use a real Christmas tree, water it daily - electric lights strung on a dry tree are a recipe for disaster.
- Inspect lights and lighted window ornaments every for worn or frayed cords.
- Use candles with care - according to the NFPA, the number of fires started by candles nearly

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Every Home Needs a (Working) Smoke Alarm

- Buy a smoke alarm at any hardware or discount store.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- A working smoke alarm doubles your chances of survival.
- Test smoke alarms monthly, keep them free of dust, and replace the battery at least twice a year (when changing clocks for daylight

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Plan Your Escape

- Practice an escape plan from every room in the house.
- Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot.
- Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house.
- Get out - then call for help - and don’t go back in!

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Evacuation Rules

- Get out as quickly and safely as possible - use stairs to escape.
- When evacuating, stay low to the ground - if possible, cover mouth with a cloth.
- Close doors after escaping to delay the spread of the fire.
- If in a room with a closed door -
  - If smoke is pouring in around the bottom of the door or it feels hot, keep the door closed - open a window to escape or for fresh air while awaiting rescue.
  - If there is no smoke at the bottom or top and the door is not hot, then open the door slowly.
  - If there is too much smoke or fire in the hall, slam the door

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Develop / Practice an Escape Plan

- Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room.
- Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.
- Practice alerting other household members - to keep a bell and a flashlight in each bedroom for this purpose.
- Practice evacuating the building blindfolded - the smoke from a fire will most likely make it impossible to see.
- Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.
- Practice checking all doors before opening them. If the door is hot, get out another way.
- Learn to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if clothes

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Fire Prevention is Key!

- Stay Cool Stay Alive!

In Case of a Fire:

- Get Out – Then Call Help!
- Have a Plan – and Practice it!